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ADVERTISER      SUSTAINING

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE      NATIONAL FARM & HOME HOUR  
"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"OK  
#340

CHICAGO OUTLET      WMAQ ... BLUE

( 11:30 - 12:15 ) PM  
TIME( JUNE 2, 1939 )  
DATE( FRIDAY )  
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS



1. Introduction      United States Forest Service  
2. Purpose      National Forests  
3. ADDITION      It is especially appropriate that the United States  
4. Forest Service dedicate this program to the preservation of National  
5. Forest Lands. For one of the primary purposes of our  
6. National Forests is to protect and preserve the water supply of some  
7. of the major rivers in this country. These watersheds protect the  
8. riparian slopes of the high mountains, and the lower forested ranges  
9. down all gather a supply of water which they release slowly to the  
10. streams in the valleys below. This water supply is the life-blood of  
11. the nation. It waters millions of acres of agriculture and their  
12. crops. It keeps the wheels of industry turning through hundreds of  
13. power plants. It serves millions of city dwellers with cold water  
14. and electricity. To waste this valuable resource is squandering the  
15. nation's wealth. To permit it to become an object of derision is  
16. degrading property and human life is criminal negligence. Thus, in  
17. order to well protect a perpetual water supply for irrigation, power  
18. and municipal use, and in order to prevent the destruction of  
19. timber, the United States Forest Service must protect the watersheds  
20. within the National Forests with absolute care and an eye to the future.  
21. Water supplies should be more abundant and flood damage greatly  
22. reduced in many other critical watershed areas in this country which  
23. could use intensive protection and management.



ANNOUNCER

(CONTINUED) And now we're ready to go again to the Pine Cone National Forest. Today we find Ranger Jim Robbins and assistant Ranger Jerry Quick in the office of the Ranger Station. Jerry is working busily at his typewriter --

PAPER IN TYPEWRITER (OFF MIKE) 5 seconds, PAPER IS PULLED OUT OF MACHINE

JERRY (FADING IN) Here you are, Jim. I just finished the last page.

JIM Fine, Jerry. How does it sound to you?

JERRY Gee, I think it's great, Jim. I'd have finished it a lot sooner if I hadn't got so interested in reading it instead of typing.

JIM Well, I hope those farmers and ranchers feel the same way about it as you do.

JERRY What time's the meeting set for tonight?

JIM Eight o'clock at the school house.

JERRY Here in Winding Creek?

JIM It'll be over in High Stakes Valley, at the consolidated school.

JERRY I'll bet everybody in the valley will be there.

JIM I reckon they will. But not to hear me. They'll be there to hear the latest news on the progress of the irrigation project for the valley. This meeting's the last one before the project comes up for final approval by the State Engineer.





10584: Do they seem to think it'll go thru?

10585: No doubt about it, from what I heard.

10586: Well, it's the best time in the world for them to discuss waterland protection, if they're going to talk about irrigation.

10587: I hope that's the way they feel about it. But I've talked with them before, some of them, and they don't seem to get very hot up about it.

10588: You've been working on the plan for quite a while, haven't you, Jim?

10589: Yes, I have. I got interested in High Blakes Valley about two years ago, when I noticed there were some spots where erosion was getting a good start.

10590: When did they ask you to work up this plan for waterland protection?

10591: About a month ago. The president of the Farmer's Cooperative came down here to Winding Urack and asked me if I'd work up a plan to present at this meeting. Ever look at any of those farms in the valley, Jerry?

10592: Not very close, Jim. But they certainly look good when you're just driving through.

10593: They look even better close up -- except where the range has been overgrazed or erosion's got started. There's one particular farm up near the head of the valley -- I'd about the prettiest place I ever saw. Owned by a fellow that lives out on the west coast.



1. JERRY You own the place with the white stone house back  
 2. in the grove of pine trees?  
 3. JIM That's the one. You've noticed it too?  
 4. JERRY It's one of the best looking places over there.  
 5. JIM Yes -- I'd like to be able to buy it some day.  
 6. JERRY And it, Jim?  
 7. JIM Well, Boss and I are gettin' along in years, and we'll  
 8. want a place of our own when we retire from active duty.  
 9. JERRY (LAUGHING) No wonder you're so interested in High  
 10. Syke's Valley.  
 11. JIM (SHUCKLING) Well, even if I wasn't interested in that  
 12. farm, I'd still do everything I could to help those  
 13. folks realize that they need to take good care of their  
 14. land if they expect it to go on making them a living.  
 15. JERRY And they'll see it, won't they, Jim?  
 16. JIM I hope so -- But they're all excited about this  
 17. irrigation project now. It'll be hard to get 'em to  
 18. think about anything else -- well, let's have a look  
 19. at the plans. (FADING) I want to check it before the  
 20. meeting so I can leave copies --

21. MUSIC UP AND OUT

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1 COLBY: (OFF) -- And everybody I've talked to at the state  
2 capitol says it looks like our project has every  
3 chance in the world of going through. The money  
4 has been promised. All we need now is the approval  
5 of the State Engineer. And I'm leaving tonight for  
6 the capital to be there in time for an appointment  
7 with him tomorrow afternoon.

8 APPLAUSE FROM AUDIENCE

9 VOICES: That's good work, Colby. The credits all yours.

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, I know we all agree that Mr. Colby has done a  
11 fine job as head of committee on the irrigation project.  
12 And as chairman of this association I want to express  
13 our thanks to him.

14 MORE APPLAUSE

15 CHAIR: Now, I've asked Jim Roboigne, who most of you know, to  
16 tell us about a plan he has worked out for watershed  
17 protection here in the valley. Go ahead, Jim.

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
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(TADINO 14) Well, I'm mighty glad of a chance to talk  
to you about watershed protection now because it's really part of this  
irrigation project you want to get. -- I've talked with some of you  
about it from time to time, so most of you know what I'm talking about  
and I might say right now that I'm not here to make a speech. I'd  
rather discuss this plan with you -- Tell it over -- Well don't  
begin with, I've been interested in High States Valley for a long  
while and I've noticed that in the last thirty years most of the  
springs that used to be here have dried up. Erosion's got started  
in several places, and the river isn't clear and clean like it was  
when I first saw the valley -- Now this erosion problem is caused  
by two things mostly -- overgrazing, and fires that burn the brush  
and timber off the watersheds. You can see for yourselves how it's  
been running -- especially the last ten years or so. The topsoil  
has been washing off your slopes into the river, and now that there's  
not much vegetation to store the water in the soil, you need  
irrigation. But I believe this situation can be remedied by  
improving the condition of the watershed -- by planting trees in some  
places, and by adjusting your livestock grazing methods to restore the  
grass on the watersheds that are gone now -- If each one of you men  
will take the responsibility carrying out your share of the watershed  
improvement plan, I think you'll find within a comparatively short  
time that you'll have this erosion problem and the control of floods  
more pretty well licked -- And I'll be glad to do all I can to help  
along -- Now if anybody's got any questions I'll try to answer them.





## SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION

2. GOLBY: (PAUSE) What'll it cost us to do this planting in  
3. Robbins?

4. JIM: Well, it'll run into some money for planting, stock and  
5. labor, and it'll probably mean some reduction in livestock.  
6. But I'd say the average wouldn't be more than between one  
7. and two hundred dollars.

## SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION

9. GOLBY: That's a pile of money to put into landscaping

10. JIM: But it's an investment in your property that'll pay in  
11. the long run.

12. GOLBY: Well, most of us won't be able to afford it now that  
13. we've got this irrigation project coming along.

14. JIM: But you have to have good soil to irrigate, or all the  
15. water in the world won't do your crops any good.

## CROWD SUBSIDES

17. GOLBY: We have good soil here. All we need is a steady supply  
18. of water.

19. JIM: But thirty years ago you didn't need water because there  
20. were springs and plenty of vegetation covering the slopes  
21. of the valley to store up a supply that lasted through  
22. the year.

23. GOLBY: It'll be practically the same thing when the reservoir's  
24. built.

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Yes -- for a while. I know the reservoir will be a  
big thing for you folks. But it won't pass altogether.  
If the slopes of the valley are more or less and  
when the soil will wash into the reservoir the soil  
it goes into the water. You need some kind of  
cover on the slopes -- hold back the soil during a  
hard rain, or it might sweep down onto the reservoir  
and burst the dam. I've seen the same thing happen  
before. If you want a permanent water supply you do  
need a reservoir. But you can't expect it to hold  
enough water to supply the whole valley all through the  
summer. When the rain falls on lower land or soil  
on mountain slopes it stores up a supply in the  
ground. That is just as important as the water held back  
by the dam -- That's why I say you ought to protect  
the protection of your watershed as far as you can.  
Both of them are necessary now to keep High Falls.  
Valley the best in the country.

#### 19. SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION

20. CHAIRMAN: [PAUSE] Any more discussion on this plan of the Reservoir?

#### 21. CROOK SUBSIDIES

22. COLBY: I don't know how everybody else feels about it. But  
it looks to me like we have enough on our hands to take  
care of the Irrigation project now.

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1. VOICES: I agree with Colby. -- That's what I'd say -- More  
 2. we have  
 3. CHAIR: Well, I think we ought to take some action on it, one  
 4. way or the other  
 5. COLBY: I make a motion Mr. Randall's plan be postponed until  
 6. we have more time for it  
 7. VOICES: Second the motion.  
 8. CHAIR: You all heard the motion. Anybody want to say anything  
 9. more about it before we take a vote? -- All right.  
 10. Those in favor of postponing action on the plan say  
 11. "Aye."  
 12. VOICES: "Aye!"  
 13. CHAIR: Those against postponing action say "No." (PAUSE)  
 14. Motion is carried.  
 15. MUSIC: HIGH AND FAST THEN FADES.  
 16. JERRY: (FADING IN) Well, maybe last night wasn't a good time  
 17. to present the plan, Jim, if they were all excited about  
 18. putting through the irrigation project.  
 19. JIM: That's what it looks like.  
 20. JERRY: You know you said yourself when we were choosing the  
 21. copies of the plan, that they might be too busy to give  
 22. it as much consideration as it ought to have.  
 23. JIM: Yes, but those men most of 'em are first rate farmers.  
 24. They know their jobs and keep up with things. You'd  
 25. think they could see how irrigation and watered  
 protection went together.





1. JERRY: From what you say, it sounds like this fella Colby  
 2. deliberately blocked your plan.  
 3. JIM: Yes, Jerry, he really asked some good questions that  
 4. gave me a chance to point out better what I was driving  
 5. at.  
 6. JERRY: Then why didn't he back you up?  
 7. JIM: Well, I reckon he just didn't see things the way I do.  
 8. JERRY: I see -- and ten years from now he'll wake up to the fact  
 9. that what you said was true and then it'll be too late.  
 10. JIM: Well, I guess he was too much absorbed with the  
 11. irrigation project -- He's chairman of the committee.  
 12. He said he was leaving last night after the meeting to  
 13. go to the capital. The State Engineer's going to give  
 14. them the final report on it today --  
 15. MUSIC UP AND OUT  
 16. DOOR OPENS  
 17. HARDING: Come in, Mr. Colby. I'm Ross Harding, the State  
 18. Engineer.  
 19. DOOR CLOSSES  
 20. COLBY: (FADING IN) Glad to meet you, Mr. Harding.  
 21. HARD: Want to pull up this chair here beside my desk?  
 22. COLBY: Thanks -- I want to tell you as folks up in High Stakes  
 23. Valley appreciate all the trouble you've gone to on this  
 24. proposition.





1. WARD: Well, we always feel that we have to do a thorough  
2. job of investigating the situation before we start  
3. on a project like yours.
4. COLBY: You had a crew up there for almost two weeks didn't  
5. you?
6. WARD: Yes, we did. But irrigation's extremely important  
7. to this State. And what happens to High Stakes  
8. Valley in the long run affects all of us.
9. COLBY: I guess it does at that.
10. WARD: Well. (DATELE OF PAPERS) Here's the report we're  
11. submitting on it -- I don't think you'll be pleased  
12. by it, Mr. Colby.
13. COLBY: What's that?
14. WARD: Well -- as you know, we've made a thorough study of  
15. the stream and watershed conditions in your valley.
16. COLBY: Yes.
17. WARD: And on the basis of what we have found, we will not  
18. be able to recommend the construction of a reservoir.
19. COLBY: But I don't understand. The funds have been lined up  
20. and the land's under option now.
21. WARD: I know. But we can't afford to spend our money on an  
22. investment that wouldn't be profitable. I believe  
23. you've overlooked --







1. WASH.

This report that's going to the Governor says that the vegetative cover of plants, trees and shrubs in the High Stakes drainage has been stripped clean in some places to the extent that erosion of the soil has become a major problem.

6. COLBY

Erosion! -- Oh -- I see.

7. HARD

From what I've seen of other conditions like those in your valley, I would judge there has been some over-grazing, and too much timber cutting and burning on the watershed. When erosion gets a start, it doesn't take many years for it to become dangerous.

12. COLBY

Yes -- I know.

13. HARD

Why you people have been losing your farms to the river, to the extent of several tons of your best topsoil every time you had a heavy rain. You know that sort of thing can't go on forever. Because the topsoil washes away a great deal faster than it accumulates.

19. COLBY

I -- I suppose so.

20. HARD

You'll have to plant trees and shrubs and get more grass on your watershed again, to hold back the water, store it up in the ground. Then, perhaps, within a few years the amount of silt carried in the river will be

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decreased enough so that we can consider the construction of a reservoir -- Now, if you want me to, I'd be glad to recommend that the State consider High Stakes Valley for a watershed protection project. We'll call the forest ranger in to give us some advice on it. Some of these men know the country pretty well --

25.



1. COLBY: Yes, now — do you know — I would  
 2. HARD: First come National Forest, you know  
 3. COLBY: Yes  
 4. HARD: I've heard a lot about this. Knows that country like  
 5. his own back yard. Pretty smart man, I guess. Do  
 6. you know him?  
 7. COLBY: Yes. Only I didn't realize how smart he was until —  
 8. Yes. He's a pretty smart man.  
 9. WENT IN AND OUT  
 10. APPROVED: While Sam's Forest Reserve came to you every Friday  
 11. on the Park and Road East through the country of the  
 12. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of  
 13. the United States Forest Service.

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